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А 64 **Английский язык** : практикум по развитию навыков устной речи по те-
мам “Биография”, “Семья”, “Великобритания”, “Защита окружающей среды”
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ПОЯСНИТЕЛЬНАЯ ЗАПИСКА

Цель практикума – формирование у студентов навыков и умений вести беседу, делать сообщения по темам, предусмотренным программой по английскому языку для неязыковых вузов.

В пособие включены 4 разговорные темы: “Биография”, “Семья”, “Великобритания”, “Защита окружающей среды”. Каждая тема содержит лексический минимум, серию упражнений языкового и речевого характера, основной текст и дополнительные тексты. Употребление лексики закрепляется в упражнениях. Каждая разговорная тема завершается заданиями творческого характера.

Данный практикум поможет студентам овладеть лексикой и речевыми образцами, необходимыми для практического владения языком.

TOPIC 1. INTRODUCING MYSELF

Text 1

Ex. 1. Read the text and translate it.

ABOUT MYSELF

Let me introduce myself. I am Svetlana Alexandrova. I am 16. This year I finished school and now I am a first year student of Gomel Trade Economic University of Consumer Cooperatives. I come from Minsk but now I live in Gomel. I was born on the 29th of March 1993 under the zodiac sign of Aries. I believe that stars influence our fate and character. As you see, I am Aries. They say that Aries is full of energy, a leader, straight talker, ambitious and frank, likes sport, stubborn, hot temper, but quick to apologize. Partially it is true. I can't admit I am stubborn. Actually, I am persistent. It is different, I think.

As to my appearance, I'm rather tall and slim. I have never thought I am a beauty. I wish I were more beautiful. I think I'm even-tempered, rather reserved, calm and modest. But sometimes I can lose my temper and become either angry or sad. I like staying alone and sometimes I retire into my shell. But at the same time I like my friends, I like to laugh and to joke. I have got a sense of humour it means I understand humour and appreciate it. But unfortunately, I'm not often witty myself. I think I am able to “keep my head when all about me are losing theirs” and to stand up to difficulties when things are not going my way. Besides, I am sincere and tolerant,

friendly and faithful, hard-working and serious. There are many things in our life which I like and some I dislike. I like when everything is O.K. Being happy is one way of being wise. I like to study, because knowledge is useful sometimes. I am fond of reading as it gives not only knowledge but also wonderful moments of joy and pleasure. Sometimes I enjoy watching TV or listening to the radio. Especially when I can hear some wonderful peaces of music. I like music. It makes people better. It awakens the best feelings and high emotions. But there is a thing that makes me crazy. I'm fond of horses and equestrian skill. I dislike overcrowded buses and getting up early. I am happy I have got more things I like than I dislike.

Ex. 2. Study the vocabulary:

admit	признавать, допускать
ambitious	честолюбивый
apologize	извиняться
appreciate	ценить
awaken	будить, пробуждать
beauty	красавица, красота
calm	спокойный
crazy	сильно увлеченный чем-то, помешанный на чем-либо
equestrian	конный
even-tempered	спокойный, уравновешенный
faithful	верный, преданный
fate	судьба
frank	искренний, открытый, откровенный
hard-working	трудолюбивый
hot-tempered	вспыльчивый
influence	влиять
introduce	представляться, знакомиться
lose one's temper	выйти из себя, терять самообладание
modest	скромный
overcrowded	переполненный
partially	частично
persistent	настойчивый, упорный
reserved	сдержанный
retire into smb.'s shell	уйти в себя
serious	серьезный

sincere	искренний
slim	стройный
stand up to smth.	выдержать
stubborn	упрямый
tolerant	терпимый
wise	мудрый
witty	остроумный
zodiac sign	знаки зодиака

STAR SIGNS

Aries	Овен
Taurus	Телец
Gemini	Близнецы
Cancer	Рак
Leo	Лев
Virgo	Дева
Libra	Весы
Scorpio	Скорпион
Sagittarius	Стрелец
Capricorn	Козерог
Aquarius	Водолей
Pisces	Рыбы

Ex. 3. Answer the questions:

1. What is your name?
2. What is your surname?
3. When and where were you born?
4. Do you know your zodiac sign?
5. What does your zodiac sign predict? Is it true?
6. Can you describe yourself?
7. What are the strong and the weak traits of your character?
8. There are things that you like and dislike, aren't there? What are they?
9. Are you happy?
10. What does the word "happiness" mean to you?

Ex. 4. Fill in the blanks with the correct words:

1. I was born on the ... of ... in ... under the zodiac ... of
2. I can't ... I am ... , actually I'm
3. I like staying ... and sometimes I ... into my
4. Music ... the best feelings and high emotions.
5. I'm fond of ... and

Ex. 5. Translate from Russian into English:

1. Я верю, что звезды влияют на нашу судьбу и характер.
2. У меня есть чувство юмора. Это значит, что я понимаю юмор и ценю его. Но, к сожалению, сама я нечасто бываю остроумной.
3. Я не теряю головы, когда все вокруг меня теряют, и способна противостоять трудностям, когда все складывается не в мою пользу.
4. Быть счастливым – один из способов стать мудрым.
5. Я счастлива, потому что существует больше вещей, которые мне нравятся, чем тех, которые мне не нравятся.

Ex. 6. Speak about:

1. Your character.
2. Your zodiac sign and its predictions.
3. Your likes and dislikes.

Text 2

Ex. 1. Read the text and translate it.

MY FAMILY

I am Alex Korolev. I am 16. I'd like to tell you about my family. We are a family of three. I live with my parents. But I've got an elder brother. He is married and has a family of his own.

I think family is an emotional center of a person's life, transmitter of culture, the place where children are being raised. The process of upbringing children is difficult. It requires much effort, mutual respect, tolerance. In happy families parents are frankly honest with their children without moralizing, and the children in their turn learn how to get on with other people.

The proverb says, "Men make houses, and women make homes." In my view, it means that the man provides for his family, pays attention to the problems of the members of the family. And the woman creates the homely atmosphere, encourages her husband and children to keep up family traditions and keeps the house. Together they bring up their children in the right way.

It is true to our family, I think. My parents have been married for 25 years. My father's name is Vitaly. He is 45 years old. He is an engineer at the Motor Plant. He is strong both in body and in character, but rather stout. He has a plump oval face with aquiline nose. He's generous and full of joy, but very careless. He can make different things with his own hands. Almost all the book shelves in our flat were made by my father.

My mother's name is Irina. She is a medium size woman. She has got a thin oval attractive face, light grey eyes and a snub nose. When she was young she had thick curly ash-blond long hair, now she wears her hair short. My mother is a woman of character, well-bred, tactful and fair. She's warm-hearted and at the same time practical, reserved and full of common sense. She is a housewife; she does all the housework and helps my elder brother to bring his sons. She is really concerned about them. They are the apple of her eye. And the boys feel affection for the Granny. My father and I try to help her about the house.

My brother Igor is about 25. He is married, as I have already said. He has got two sons. My elder nephew is a spitting image of my brother and the junior one takes after his mother, my brother's wife. The boys are funny and curious.

We have got a lot of relatives, because my mother has got five sisters and a brother. So I've got many aunts, uncles and cousins. We are on friendly terms.

Ex. 2. Study the vocabulary:

aquiline	орлиный
ash-blond	пепельный (о волосах)
attractive	привлекательная
careless	беззаботный
common sense	здравый смысл
create	создавать
curious	любопытный
curly	кудрявый
effort	усилие

encourage	воодушевлять, поддерживать, поощрять
fair	порядочный, справедливый
frankly	откровенно, открыто
generous	великодушный, благородный, щедрый
get on with	быть в хороших отношениях, ладить
honest	честный
housewife	домохозяйка
keep the house	вести домашнее хозяйство
keep up	поддерживать
medium size	среднего роста
moralizing	поучение
mutual	взаимный
plump	полный
practical	практичный
provide	обеспечивать
raise	воспитывать, растить
require	требовать
reserved	сдержанный
respect	уважение
snub	вздёрнутый, курносый
spitting image	точная копия
stout	тучный, толстый, сильный, крепкий
tactful	тактичный
take after	быть похожим
thick	густой
tolerance	терпимость
transmitter	передатчик
upbringing	воспитание
warm-hearted	добросердечный
well-bred	воспитанный

Ex. 3. Answer the questions:

1. Will you introduce yourself?
2. Is your family large?
3. Have you got any brothers or sisters?
4. What are your parents?
5. Where do they work?

6. How long have your parents been married?
7. Do you spend much time with your family?
8. Do you go out with your parents?
9. Who keeps your house?
10. What are your parents' hobbies?
11. Will you describe your mother and father?
12. Have you got any other relatives?

Ex. 4. Fill in the blanks with the correct words:

1. The process of ... children is difficult.
2. In happy families parents are ... honest with their children without ..., and the children in their ... learn how to get on with other people.
3. Proverb says, "Men make ..., women make"
4. She is ... and at the same time ... and full of
5. The boys are funny and

Ex. 5. Complete the following sentences:

1. The process of upbringing children requires ...
 - a) parents' tolerance;
 - b) not so much effort, but mutual respect;
 - c) much effort, mutual respect and tolerance.
2. In my view, the man must ...
 - a) provide for his family;
 - b) build his house with his own hands;
 - c) keep away from family problems.
3. The housewife ...
 - a) does all the work about the house;
 - b) stays at home all day along;
 - c) helps different people keep their houses.

Ex. 6. Translate from Russian into English:

1. По-моему, семья – это эмоциональный центр жизни человека, передатчик культуры, место, где воспитываются дети.
2. Женщина создает домашнюю атмосферу, поддерживает своего мужа и детей, хранит семейные традиции и ведет хозяйство.

3. Когда мама была молодая, у нее были густые выющиеся пепельные волосы, а сейчас у нее короткие волосы.
4. Мой старший племянник – точная копия моего брата, а младший – похож на свою маму, жену моего брата.
5. Мы все очень дружим.

Ex. 7. Speak about:

1. Your ideas of the role the family plays in our life.
2. Your parents.
3. Your relatives.

Text 3

Ex. 1. Read the text and translate it.

MY FLAT

I live in Yakubov street in a nine-storied block of flats. Our flat is on the ninth floor. It's a four-room flat with all the modern conveniences.

As I have already said, there are four rooms in our flat: a living room, my parents' bedroom, my study and my sister's room. Our living-room isn't large. In the evening we stay here together watching TV-set, listening to music, talking or discussing family problems.

There are a TV-set, a sofa, four armchairs, a piano and a wall-unit there. On the floor and on the wall there are carpets, because we like when it's warm and cozy in the room.

In my study there is a writing table near the window, two chairs and a bookcase. Besides, there are shelves with audio-cassettes, CDs, books and souvenirs. I've got a computer and CD-player. On the walls there are some pictures. But what makes my room interesting is my air fleet of planes. They hang on strings over your head. There are different types of airplanes there: helicopters, sport planes, fighters, bombers, passenger planes. Besides, I've got a model airport, which I have made with my own hands. It's a special attraction to my cousin.

My parents' and my sister's rooms are different. They reflect their tastes, hobbies and the way of life. In my parents' room there are a lot of books and souvenirs. My mother keeps all the things I and my sister made ourselves. My sister made a lot of toys: teddy bears, cats, horses and other animals. She is crazy on horses that's why in her room there are many beautiful posters of horses on the walls.

I can say lot of about my flat. But to make a long story short, I must say, there is no place like home. Speaking about our home I don't mean a flat as it is. I mean people who are dear to me, who love me and are waiting for me. That's why wherever I was. I would always hurry home.

Ex. 2. Study the vocabulary:

air fleet	воздушная эскадрилья
bedroom	спальня
block of flats	многоквартирный дом
bomber	бомбардировщик
CD-player	проигрыватель компакт-дисков
crazy	очень увлеченный чем-то
discuss	обсуждать
fighter	истребитель
floor	этаж, пол
hang	висеть
helicopter	вертолет
hurry	спешить
living-room	зал, гостиная
modern conveniences	современные удобства
nine-stored	девятиэтажный
passenger plane	пассажирский самолет
poster	плакат
reflect	отражать
souvenir	сувенир
string	струна, леска
study	кабинет
taste	вкус
wall-unit	секция

Ex. 3. Answer the questions:

1. Where do you live?
2. Do you live in a small house or in a block of flats?
3. Which floor is your flat on?
4. Are there all modern conveniences in your flat?
5. How many rooms are there in your flat? What are they?
6. Where do you usually spend evening?

7. Is there much furniture in your flat? Do you change it round from time to time?

8. What is there in your room?

9. Do the rooms in your flat reflect the tastes of their owners?

10. Do you agree that there is no place like home?

Ex. 4. Fill in the blanks with the correct words:

1. On the floor and on the wall there are ... because we like when it's ... and ... in the room.

2. Planes ... on ... over your head.

3. The rooms reflect their ..., ... and the way of life.

4. A toy-airport is a special ... to my cousin.

Ex. 5. Complete the sentences:

1. I live in Yakubov street in ...

a) a sixteen-storied building;

b) a private house;

c) a nine-storyed block of flats.

2. What makes my room interesting is ...

a) my air fleet of model planes;

b) my collection of badges;

c) a picture I have painted.

3. My mother keeps all the things ...

a) my father brought from his journeys;

b) she has made herself;

c) my sisters and I made ourselves.

4. To take along story short, I must say ...

a) east or west, home is best;

b) every bird likes its own nest best;

c) there is no place like home.

Ex. 6. Translate from Russian into English:

1. Это четырехкомнатная квартира со всеми удобствами.

2. На полу и на стене ковры, потому что мы любим, когда в комнате тепло и уютно.

3. Обстановка в их комнате отражает их вкусы, интересы и образ жизни.

4. Моя сестра очень любит лошадей, и в ее комнате на стенах много красивых плакатов.

5. Я имею в виду людей, которые дороги мне, которые меня любят и всегда ждут меня. Поэтому, где бы я ни был, я тороплюсь домой.

Ex. 7. Read the text again, divide it into logical parts and name them.

Ex. 8. Arrange the points of the plan in a logical order and retell the text according to this plan:

1. My room.
2. Our living-room.
3. The place where I live.
4. My parents' and my sister's rooms.

Ex. 9. Speak about:

1. Your flat.
2. Your room.
3. Prove there is no place like home.

Text 4

Ex. 1. Read the text and translate it.

MY FRIEND

Lucky are the people who have friends. I'm happy to have lots of friends, too. Some of them are very close, some are less. But all of them make my life interesting and enjoyable.

I appreciate friendship. It's a special thing. It makes happiness glow brighter and grief less painful, because we have friends to share it. When we doubt our ability to fulfill our aspiration or to reach our secret goal it is our best friend who gives us a part of assurance. And we trust our friend and are grateful. Friendship is a bridge between loneliness and fellowship, frustration and confidence despair and hope, setbacks and success. That's why a true friend is a priceless gift. "They are rich who have true friends," says a proverb and I agree.

I think Natasha is my best friend. We have much in common: the same interests and attitude to life. Very often our opinions coincide, sometimes they differ. But we never quarrel, there's mutual understanding between us. I like her appearance. She is tall, blonde with blue eyes. She's not a beauty, but rather attractive. She possesses a sense of humor and often makes me laugh.

She lives far from me. But we meet every day at the institute. We are the same age. We spend a lot of time together discussing books, films, performances, solving our problems, planning our future. Sometimes, when I have some problems at the institute she helps me to solve them, because she studies well. We can talk about everything. I appreciate my friend's advice.

I know that the way to have a friend is to be one, so my friend can rely on me I won't let her down.

Ex. 2. Study the vocabulary:

appreciate	ценить
aspiration	стремление, желание
assurance	уверенность
attitude	отношение
close	близкий
coincide	совпадать
confidence	уверенность
despair	отчаяние
doubt	сомневаться
fellowship	дружба, товарищество
frustration	расстройство (планов)
gift	подарок
glow	сиять
grateful	благодарный
grief	горе
let smb. down	подвести
loneliness	одиночество
mutual	взаимный
quarrel	ссориться
rely	полагаться
setback	неудача
share	делить
spark	искра
trust	доверять

Ex. 3. Answer the questions:

1. Are people who have friends lucky? Explain why?
2. Have you got lots of friends? Are all of them your close friends?
3. Friendship is a special thing, isn't it?
4. How do you understand friendship?
5. Who is your best friend?
6. Have you much in common?
7. Do you often quarrel?
8. What does your friend look like?
9. What do you do together with your friend?

Ex. 4. Fill in the blanks with the correct words:

1. Some of my friends are very ..., some are
2. Friendship makes happiness ... brighter and ... less painful, because we have friends to ... it.
3. We ... our friends and are grateful.
4. Very often our opinions ..., sometimes they differ. But we never ... , there's ... understanding between us.
5. I ... my friend's advice.

Ex. 5. Complete the sentences:

1. All my friends make my life ...
 - a) boring and lonely;
 - b) interesting and enjoyable;
 - c) dangerous and risky.
2. A true friendship is ...
 - a) a priceless gift;
 - b) a useless thing;
 - c) a usual thing.

Ex. 6. Translate from Russian into English:

1. Счастливы люди, которые имеют друзей.
2. Дружба – это мост между одиночеством и друзьями, растерянностью и уверенностью, отчаянием и надеждой, неудачами и успехами.
3. У нас много общего: одинаковые интересы и отношение к жизни.

4. У нее есть чувство юмора, и она часто заставляет меня смеяться.
5. Я знаю, что единственный путь иметь друга – это самому быть хорошим другом.

Ex. 7. Read the text, divide it into logical parts and name them.

Ex. 8. Retell the text by using your plan.

Ex. 9. Speak about your best friend.

Text 5

Ex. 1. Read the text and translate it.

HOBBIES

The author of an article in Polish newspapers has counted 1,019 personal interests and ways to spend one's free time. The most popular hobbies are philately, collection view-cards, coins, stamps, badges and books. Some people are interested in modern architecture. Others are interested in photography. A useful hobby is collection cassettes; you may have recordings of operas and pop music, folk music and jazz concerts. It's impossible to describe all these 1,019 hobbies known in the world. The main thing is that they enrich our knowledge in some particular field, broaden our outlook and help us to relax.

Hobbies differ like tastes. If you have chosen a hobby according to your character and taste you are lucky because your life becomes more interesting.

Hobbies are divided into four large classes: doing things, making things, learning things and collecting things.

The most popular of all hobby groups is doing things. It includes a wide variety of activities from gardening to travelling and from chess to volleyball. Gardening is one of the oldest of man's hobbies. Playing computer games is a relatively new hobby.

Making things includes drawing, painting, making sculpture, designing costumes, handicrafts. Some hobbies are to write music or to play musical instruments.

Almost everyone collects something at some period of his life. Some collections have no real value. Others become so large and valuable that

they are housed in museums and galleries. Many world-famous collections started in a small way with one or two items.

No matter what kind of hobby a person has, he always has the opportunity of learning from it. By reading about the things he is interested in, he is adding to what he knows. Learning things can be the most exiting aspect of a hobby.

Ex. 2. Think 10–12 questions on the text.

Ex. 3. Speak about yourself, your family, your flat, your friends, your hobbies and your plans on future.

Ex. 4. Speak about:

1. Your zodiac sign and its predictions.
2. Your likes and dislikes.
3. Your ideas of the role the family plays in our life.
4. Your parents.
5. Your relatives.
6. What real friendship is?
7. Your best friend.
8. Your flat.
9. Your room.
10. Prove there is no place like home.

TOPIC 2. WHAT IS A FAMILY

Text 1

Ex. 1. Read the text and pick out the shortest possible definition of a family. Discuss your choice with your partner.

THE FAMILY

There are many different views on family life. Some people say they can not do without the support and love of their families. Many others say it is the source of most of their problems. The family is the most basic and ancient of all institutions, and it remains the fundamental social unit in every society. Yet it is difficult to give the definition of a “normal” family.

What exactly is a family? Broadly speaking the family is a group of people related by blood or law, living together and joined by marriage for a common purpose. That purpose is usually to provide shelter, food and to bring up children. However, the general definition does not give us the idea of numerous family forms existing in various countries.

What characteristics, then, are common to all family forms? First, the family consists of a group of people who are in some way related to one another. Second, its members live together for long periods. Third, the adults in the group are responsible for their offspring. And fourth, the members of the family form an economic unit – often for producing goods and services (when the family lives in the country and its members share agricultural tasks) always for consuming goods and services (such as food, housing, etc.).

Sociologists divide families into two general types: the nuclear family and the extended family, which may include three or more generations living together. In highly developed industrial countries, especially in their large cities, the nuclear family is regarded as normal. Most people think of it as consisting of two parents and two children. But even this type is changing; there are a lot of families with one child only, which means that the nuclear family is shrinking year by year.

The variety of family types existing at present also includes unmarried couples living together, two-person childless families, single-parent homes which are becoming steadily more common. The latest events in family development make some people say that the family is in crisis and that traditional family life is a thing of the past. Sociologists are not so pessimistic, they think that the family reflects all the processes of modern society and, like any social phenomenon, it keeps changing.

Ex. 2. Study the vocabulary:

be related	быть связанным родством
consume	потреблять
offspring	потомство
regard	считать, рассматривать
shelter	убежище, кров
shrink	сжиматься, уменьшаться
source	источник

Ex. 3. Choose the correct phrase to complete the sentences:

1. The views on family life are ...

- a) the same in all cultures;
 - b) quite different;
 - c) quite traditional.
2. The family consists of a group of people who are ...
- a) related by marriage only;
 - b) related by birth;
 - c) in some way related to one another.
3. Sociologists divide all families ...
- a) according to the number of their members;
 - b) into two general types;
 - c) into a great number of types.
4. The nuclear family is a common type ...
- a) in the countryside;
 - b) in all countries;
 - c) in large cities.
5. The family reflects ...
- a) the political situation in any country;
 - b) the processes of modern society;
 - c) the latest achievement in economy.

Ex. 4. Fill in the blanks with the correct words:

- 1. Some people cannot do without the ... and ... of their families.
- 2. The family is to provide shelter, food and to ... children.
- 3. The extended family includes three or more ... living together.
- 4. There are a lot of families with one ... only.
- 5. Sociologists are not ... about the family development (child, bring up, support, pessimistic, generations, love).

Ex. 5. Answer the questions:

- 1. What different views on family life do people have?
- 2. What is the main purpose for the family?
- 3. Why do they say that the family is an economic unit?
- 4. What are the two main types of families?
- 5. Does the nuclear family change in any way at present?
- 6. What new types of families have appeared recently?

Ex. 6. Express the meaning of the following phrases with one word from the text. You are given the first letter of each word:

1. All members of a family of about the same age (g...). 2. A place to live, given protection (s...). 3. Explanation or description of a word, phrase or idea (d...). 4. To become smaller in size (s...). 5. A period of great danger or difficulty (c...).

Ex. 7. Expand the following statements. Add information from the text:

1. The definitions of a family can differ greatly.
2. The nuclear family is the main type of family structure.
3. The family is in the process of changing.

Ex. 8. Find in the text the paragraph speaking about the main characteristics of all family forms. Discuss them with your partner trying to explain their meaning. Do you think all of them are important for understanding what a family is?

Ex. 9. Arrange the points of the plan in logical order (i. e. the way they are given in the text). Be ready to retell the text using the plan:

1. The main family types.
2. New developments in family life.
3. The importance of the family.
4. The common features of all family types.
5. The definition of the family.

Text 2 and text 3

Ex. 1. Read the following two texts about the British and the American families and compare which of them gives more information about the occupations and daily routine of their members.

THE AVERAGE BRITISH FAMILY

The average British family lives in a semi-detached house with a garden. The house they own is usually situated in the suburb of a large town. The house has three bedrooms. On average, they have children and a pet, a

cat or a dog. The family can afford to buy a car, a colour TV-set and a washing machine.

The typical British family is small; very few children now grow up in large families. There is also a growing number of single-parent homes, with only one parent. Some parents are single because they are divorced, but many other young parents do not get married at all.

More and more adults live alone; most of them are elderly people, as it is unusual to find three generations living in one house as they used to do in the past. It is quite common for close relatives to live in different parts of the country, and many people hardly ever meet their uncles, aunts and cousins. One reason for this is that British people move house every five years on average. They do this in order to change jobs or to buy a bigger or better house.

The members of the family start the day at about 7 o'clock, have breakfast at 8 and are off to work by 8.30. More and more women now go out to work as men.

He works in the office of an engineering company for 40 hours a week and earns £200 per week. He goes to work by car, which takes him about 20 min. He doesn't particularly like his job, but there are chances of promotion.

She works in a service industry for three days a week and earns £95 per week. She works locally and goes there by bus. She quite likes her job as it gets her out of the house, she meets people and it is close to the children's school.

The children go to a state school which is a few miles from home. A special bus comes to pick them up every day. They have lunch at school at about 12.30 and come home at 4 in the afternoon.

The most popular entertainment is watching television or video, which the average person does for two and a half hours a day. After that, the next most popular activity is visiting friends, going to the cinema or a restaurant, or going to the pub. The most popular hobby is gardening, and the most popular sports are fishing, football and tennis.

Though such thing as the average British family does not exist, it is in fact an abstraction, but the information about it can help people understand certain social trends.

Ex. 2. Study the vocabulary:

divorced	разведенный
on average	в среднем
promotion	продвижение по службе
semi-detached house	один из двух домов, имеющих общую стену
trend	тенденция

THE AMERICAN FAMILY

Most American families consist of a mother, a father, and three or four children living at home. There may be relatives – grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins – in the same community, but American families usually prefer separate households. This family structure is known as the “nuclear family.” Sometimes an aging grandparent may live with the family, but this arrangement is not common, as a rule. The nuclear family is economically independent of the rest of the family. However, members of the whole family group often show loving concern for one another. Parents and their married children, as well as sisters and brothers, visit each other when they live quite close. If they live in different communities, they keep in touch by writing letters and by telephone.

The typical American family has more money, some have two or three cars, large modern kitchens and more electrical goods, they eat more meat and spend more on clothes than a British family. Their daily programs are practically the same. In the American family the husband and wife usually share important decision making. When the children are old enough, they participate as well.

American children are more independent than their British peers. They usually break away from their families by the time they have reached their late teens or early twenties. If a young man or a girl do not so, they may be regarded as failures.

Early independence of young people often results in serious problems for the aging parents of a nuclear family. People retire from their jobs at 65. By that time their children have left home and married. Elderly couples feel useless and lonely without a constant occupation and a close family group.

Ex. 3. Study the vocabulary:

concern	интерес, забота
failure	неудачник
peer	сверстник

Ex. 4. Decide if the following statements are true or false. Correct the false statements:

1. The British family usually lives in a semi-detached house not far from the centre of the town.
2. Very few British children grow up in large families.

3. The mother of the British family prefers to stay at home and look after the children.
4. The most popular entertainment for the British family is to go to the cinema.
5. The American family has more children than the British one.
6. American children are more dependent on their parents than their British peers.
7. American children seldom leave their families before they are 25.
8. Elderly people often feel lonely without the contact with their children.

Ex. 5. Compare the information given in both texts concerning the following:

1. Reread the texts to find the sentences speaking about the financial position of the American and the British families.
2. Both texts speak about the relations between the members of the whole family group. Are they different or alike?
3. Which of the texts speak about parent-children relationship in the family?
4. In what text can you find information about the hobbies and interests of the family?

Ex. 6. Do you think the other type of family enjoys the same things? Discuss it with your group mates.

Ex. 7. Be ready to speak about either the British or the American family. Don't forget to compare certain aspects with the other type.

Text 4

Ex. 1. Some people think that marriage is different from love. Read the text to find whether Americans are of the same opinion.

LOVE AND MARRIAGE

Americans have one of the highest marriage rates among the industrial nations. Other countries with high marriage rates are Russia, Egypt and Japan. This has always been so. The American family is most commonly founded on the romantic love of the partners. Only in American upper

classes parents expect their daughters to marry “well” – that is to find a husband with good family background and a nice income. Most Americans, however, do not approve of anyone who marries for money or some other practical reason in which love plays no part.

To some extent, this view is rooted in the ideas expressed in the song which was popular in the United States of America (USA) in the 1960's and has the symbolic title:

Love and Marriage

Love and marriage, love and marriage,
Go together like a horse and carriage,
This I tell you, brother,
You can't have one without the other.
Love and marriage, love and marriage,
It's an institute you can't disparage,
Ask the local gentry
And they will say it's elementary.
Try, try, and try to separate them,
It's an illusion,
Try, try, try and you will only come to this conclusion.
Love and marriage, love and marriage,
Go together like a horse and carriage,
Dad was told by mother,
You can't have one,
You can't have none,
You can't have one without the other!

Though the comparison sounds a bit ridiculous at present, but the idea is for ever present in American popular culture, advertised by book, magazines, comics, popular songs, movies, and TV.

The marriage rate, however, does not remain unchanged in different age groups. Some 30 years ago the average age at first marriage was 22.5 for men and 20.2 for women. But by the end of the 1990's more than half of the women in the United States between the ages of 20 and 24 had never been married. Many people prefer to postpone marriage until they can get a job and afford to set up a house hold and raise a family.

Ex. 2. Study the vocabulary:

approve	одобрять
background	происхождение

disparage	относиться с пренебрежением
income	доход
gentry	(здесь) люди
marriage rate	количество браков

Ex. 3. Answer the questions:

1. What is the marriage rate in the USA like?
2. What other countries compete with the USA in marriage rates?
3. What is the American general attitude to marriage for money?
4. What do Americans believe to be the basis of a happy marriage?
5. Are there any changes in the average marriage age in the USA?
6. Why do people at present get married later than it was before?
7. Are the marriage tendencies the same in your country?

Ex. 4. Summarize the text in three or four sentences. Use the expressions:

1. The text is devoted to...
2. The author speaks about...
3. The reader is given some figures showing...

Ex. 5. Speak about some American films about young people getting married. Does it advertise the idea of romantic love?

Text 5

Ex. 1. Read the letter of a British student who is writing for the first time to his Belarusian pen-friend look through the text and say whether it provides any information about the relations between the member of Peter's family.

Peter Brown
16 Lakes Drive
Bristol
England

Dear Pavel,

Thank you very much for your nice letter. It has taken a week to get here. I am happy to have a new pen-friend in Belarus, and I think you'll enjoy reading about my family just as I enjoyed reading about yours.

My name is Peter Brown and I come from Bristol. At present I am studying law at the London University and that is why I do not see my family too often. My parents live in a detached house in the suburb of Bristol. My mother is a teacher and my father is a businessman. My father is a very active person. The dull routine of everyday life does not suit him at all. He likes to lead a hectic life and he is always on the go. My mother, on the other hand, is a family woman. She takes good care of our family and she is fond of home-life. She is good-tempered and patient and I know that I can always rely on her.

My elder sister is already married. She has a five-year-old daughter and a two-year-old son. She does not go to work but stays at home and looks after the children. She often visits my parents and they spend a lot of time together.

I get on very well with my grandmother. My grandfather died a few years ago and since that time she has been a little bit lonely. Whenever I come to her, she treats me to delicious cakes. She is a very nice and intelligent person. She tries to see the good in people and is always happy to help others with their problems. She likes speaking about the past and her stories are really fascinating. We often talk about politics, religion and music. Sometimes we go for walks with the niece and nephew.

I wish I spend more time with my family. My mother often writes long letters to me. I know she misses me and she would be glad if I lived in Bristol. Unfortunately, this is not possible because I have to complete my studies first. And then? Well, I will probably get married and raise my own family. However, I have not decided yet if I will go back to Bristol.

This letter will be posted tomorrow. I hope our correspondence will be a good experience for you in learning English. As for me, I'll be happy to learn the things you are fond of doing in your country.

My best wishes and regard to you and your parents.

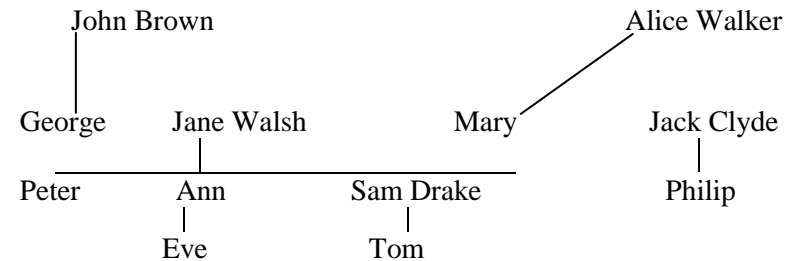
Ex. 2. Study the vocabulary:

hectic	оживленный
to be on the go	быть в движении (в работе)
to get on (with)	ладить

Ex. 3. Use the facts of the text to prove the following:

1. Peter's father tries to escape the dull routine of everyday life.
2. Peter's parents are different by character.
3. Peter likes to spend his time with his grandmother.

Ex. 4. Study Peter Brown's family tree and answer the questions:



1. Whose children are George and Mary?
2. Whose mother is Jane Walsh?
3. How are George and Jane related? How many children do they have?
4. Whose children are Tom and Eve?
5. Whose sister is Mary?
6. How are Peter and Sam related?
7. Whose cousin is Philip?
8. Whose grandchildren are Peter, Ann and Philip?
9. How are Peter and Mary related?
10. Whose nephew is Tom?
11. Are the people in the family tree close or distant relative?

Ex. 5. Compare the information in the letter with Peter's family tree. What facts concerning his family are not mentioned in the text?

Ex. 6. Draw your family tree and say how close you are to the various members of your family.

Ex. 7. Read the following dialogue. Find out who the speakers are and where the dialogue is taking place:

- What's the name of your elder sister, Peter?
- Ann. Here she is in this photo.
- And who's this little girl on the left? She looks like you.
- It's my niece Eve. She has quite a good memory. She knows lots of poems by heart.
- That's very good. Whom does she take after? Your sister or your brother-in-law?
- My brother-in-law. Eve is a fine girl, but a bit spoilt, to my mind. School will do her good.

- Is she an only child in the family?
- No they have a son, Tom. He is only two years old, so my sister doesn't work at the moment.
- And what is your brother-in-law?
- He is an engineer. He's in the States now, but he'll rejoin the family in a few months.
- I hope I'll meet him some day.
- As soon as he comes, I'll introduce you to him.

Ex. 8. Speak about Peter Brown's family. Use the information provided by the family tree (ex. 4) and the dialogue (ex. 7) to make your story more detailed.

Ex. 9. Answer the questions:

1. Why is it important for a person to have a family?
2. Is the family unit in your country in crisis? Do you think that family life is less important in the modern world than it was in the past?
3. What do you think is the best age for a person to get married?
4. To what type of families does your own family belong? Justify your point of view.
5. How many people should an ideal family include? What is your idea of an "ideal" family?
6. Do you agree with Leo Tolstoy's words: "All happy families resemble one another, each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way?" Comment on this quotation.
7. Some 40 years ago the "Beatles" sang "Money can't buy me love." Has anything changed since then?

TOPIC 3. THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Text 1

Ex. 1. Read the text about the United Kingdom (UK) of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Be ready to speak about the country.

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is the official name of

the British Kingdom, including England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

It is situated on the British Isles which lie off the north-west coast of the European continent.

The British Isles consist of more than 5,500 islands. The biggest island is Great Britain. There are also the Shetland Islands, the Hebrides, the Orkney Islands, the Isle of Man, Anglesey, Wight, etc.

Great Britain stretches for 1,000 km from the south to the extreme north, and for 500 km in the widest part.

It is washed by the Atlantic Ocean in the north-west, north and south-west, and is separated from the European continent by the North Sea, the Strait of Dover and the English Channel.

The country occupies the area of 242,500 km² (square kilometers). The territory of Great Britain is small, yet the country has a wide variety of scenery. England, which is the richest, the most populated part of the country, is a vast plain. It is separated from Scotland by the Cheviot Hills running from east to west. In Northwest England there are many picturesque lakes with green, wooded or grassy shores and grey mountains all around. It is famous Lake District, the real tourist attraction. Wales and Scotland are mountainous areas. In Wales the mountains are rocky and difficult to climb.

The highest mountain is Snowdon. The Highlands of Scotland are among the oldest mountains in the world. The highest of them is Ben Nevis. By the way, Scotland is a land of famous lakes. They are called "lochs" there. The beautiful Loch Lomond is the largest one and Loch Ness attracts millions of tourists by its legendary monster.

The rivers are not long in Britain. The largest of them are the Severn (350 km), the Clyde and the Mersey. They flow into the Irish Sea. The Thames is the busiest and the most important river in Great Britain. The capital of Great Britain, London, stands on the Thames.

The climate of Great Britain is temperate and mild due to the influence of the warm waters of the Gulf Stream. The summers are usually cool and rainy. There is much rain and fog in autumn and in winter. Great Britain is a damp country. The weather is very changeable and it is the favourite topic of conversation in Britain.

The population of Great Britain is 57 million people. Population density is the highest in England and the lowest in Scotland. Four out of every five people live in towns and cities. The largest of them are London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.

Britain is a parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarchy.

The present Sovereign is Queen Elizabeth II. In practice the Sovereign reigns but doesn't rule. The UK is governed by the Government – a body of Ministers, the Cabinet. It consists of the leading members of the political party in power. They are responsible to Parliament. The main political parties are the Conservatives, the Labor Party and the Liberal-Social Democratic Party.

The Prime Minister who heads the Government is usually the leader of the party which has the majority in the House of Commons. The House of Commons and the House of Lords with the Monarch comprise the Parliament. Once Parliament approves legislation it receives the Royal Assent and becomes law.

Great Britain is one of the world's major industrialized and trading nations. It enjoys a long established democratic system of government which has provided political stability. The UK is a member of the European Community (EC), the United Nation Organization (UNO), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Commonwealth.

Ex 2. Study the vocabulary:

approve	одобрять, утверждать
appoint	назначать
attraction	привлекательность
coast	побережье
comprise	входить в состав
damp	сырой, влажный
density	плотность населения
due	благодаря
establish	устанавливать, основать
fertile	плодородный
flow	течь
govern	управлять
influence	влияние
island	остров
legislation	законодательство
lie off (lay, lain)	находиться на некотором расстоянии
majority	большинство
mild	мягкий
be situated	быть расположенным
stretch	простираться, протянуться
picturesque	живописный

scenery	пейзаж, вид
separate	разделять, отделять
shore	берег
sovereign	монарх
temperate	умеренный
topic	предмет разговора, тема
reign	царствовать
rule	править
provide	обеспечивать
Royal Assent	королевская санкция, одобрение
vast	обширный, огромный

Ex. 3. Answer the questions:

1. What is the official name of Great Britain?
2. Where is the UK situated? Is it a large country?
3. What kind of scenery can you see on the territory of Great Britain?
4. What can you say about mountains, rivers and lakes in Great Britain?
5. Is population density high in Great Britain?
6. What influences the climate of Great Britain?
7. Is Britain a parliamentary democracy?
8. Who rules the country?
9. Who is appointed the Prime Minister in Great Britain?
10. What is the British Parliament?

Ex. 4. Fill in the missing words:

1. Great Britain ... for over 1,000 km from the south to the ... north and for 500 km in the ... past.
2. The ... of Great Britain is small, yet the country has a wide variety of
3. The beautiful Loch Lomond is the largest lake and Loch Ness ... millions of tourists by its
4. The Thames is the ... and the most important ... in Great Britain.
5. Population ... is highest in England and ... in Scotland.
6. The Queen ... Prime Minister to form a ... or the Cabinet.
7. The Prime Minister is usually the leader of the party which has a ... in the House of Commons.

Ex. 5. Choose the correct ending to the sentences:

1. Great Britain is washed by the Atlantic Ocean in the north-west, north and south-west and is separated from the European continent...
 - a) by the Irish Sea and the Strait of Dover;
 - b) by the Chaviot Hills;
 - c) by the North Sea, the Strait of Dover and the English Channel.
2. In Northwest England there are many picturesque...
 - a) lakes with green, wooded or grassy shores and grey mountains all around;
 - b) mountains with green, wooded or grassy slopes;
 - c) rivers with green, wooded or grassy banks and grey mountains.
3. The Highlands of Scotland are among...
 - a) the higher mountains in the world;
 - b) the oldest mountains in the world.
4. Summer are usually...
 - a) hot and rainy;
 - b) cool and rainy;
 - c) warm and sunny.

Ex. 6. Find the English equivalents to the following sentences:

1. Объединенное Королевство расположено на Британских островах, которые находятся недалеко от северо-западного побережья Европы.
2. Англия, наиболее богатая, плодородная и наиболее заселенная часть страны, является обширной равниной.
3. Уэльс и Шотландия – горные районы.
4. Четверо из каждых пяти человек живут в горах.
5. Погода в Британии изменчивая и является любимой темой для разговоров.
6. Фактически монарх царствует, но не правит.
7. Великобритания – одна из основных промышленных и торговых наций в мире.

Ex. 7. Read the text, divide it into the logical parts and name them.

Ex. 8. Put the following plan into logical order:

1. The climate of Great Britain.
2. The political system of the UK.
3. The geographical position of the UK.
4. The population of Great Britain.
5. A wide variety of scenery.
6. The world's major industrialized and trading nation.

Ex. 9. Discuss with your partner:

1. The geographical position of the UK.
2. The climate of the UK.
3. The population of Great Britain.
4. The political system of the UK.
5. Great Britain as one of the major industrialized and trading nations.

Text 2

Ex. 1. Read the text and be ready to discuss it.

HISTORY OF GREAT BRITAIN

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a country of great history rich in important events and entertaining legends connected with them. It's not enough to write several volumes to tell the full history of the country. That's why we'll try to answer the questions where the British come from and who they are.

They say that in prehistoric times Britain was joined to Europe. So the first people came there over dry land. The present English Channel which separated Britain from Europe appeared at the end of the Ice Age. In the New Stone Age the hunters crossed the sea to the west of the Channel and settled along the Western shores in search of food. The first inhabitants of the island came from the Iberian Peninsula, where Spain is located, somewhere after 3,000 BC (before Christ). After 2,000 BC the people from the east of Europe entered the country. The two people intermixed. They left us Stonehenge and Avebury as impressive monuments of their time.

After 800 BC the Celts arrived from Central Europe and opened up a new important page of the British history. The name "Britain" comes from the name of a Celtic tribe known as the Britons. Their influence was the

greatest in Wales, Scotland and Ireland, as they were driven to these parts by the invaders who followed them. That's why these parts of Britain are very different from England in language, customs and traditions.

In 55 BC Julius Caesar, the Roman ruler, invaded Britain. However, his first expedition was not successful, because his force was small, and the Celts fought well. In the following year 54 BC he invaded the country with a larger army and this time the expedition was successful: the Celts were defeated. But Caesar didn't stay in Britain. He left the country. When the Romans left, Britain remained independent for some time.

However quite soon it was attacked by Germanic tribes: the Jutes, the Saxons and the Angles. And by the end of the 5th century the greater part of the country was occupied. People began to call the new land of the Angles and Saxons England. Wales, Cornwall, the northern part of Britain and Ireland remained unconquered and preserved Celtic culture.

The Saxon kingdoms fought one against the other. In 829 the greater part of the country was united under the name England.

The northern part was the home of the Picts and Scots. After the conquest of the Picts by the Scots in the 9th century this territory was called Scotland. And in the 11th century a united Scottish Kingdom was formed.

An important event which contributed to the unification of the country was the adoption of Christianity in England in 664.

In the 9th century the Danes attacked. It was Alfred who defeated the Danes making them sign a peace agreement.

The last of the invaders to come to Britain were the Normans from France. In 1066 Duke William of Normandy defeated the English at the battle of Hastings and established his rule as king of England known as William the Conqueror. The French language became the official language of the ruling class for the next three centuries. This explains the great number of French words in English. The power of the state grew and little by little England began to spread its power: first on Wales, then on Scotland and later on Ireland. Wales was brought under the English parliament in 1536 and 1542 by Henry VIII.

In 1603 the son of Mary Queen of Scots James Stuart became James I of England. The union of England, Wales and Scotland became known as Great Britain. However the final unification of Scotland and England took place in 1707 when both sides agreed to form a single parliament in London for Great Britain, although Scotland continued to keep its own system of law, education and have an independent church.

Ireland was England's first colony, but even now there are problems there connected with religion. The Irish people can be divided into two religions

groups: Catholics and Protestants. The fighting between these groups is connected with the colonial past. In the 16th century Henry VIII of England quarreled with Rome and declared himself head of the Anglican Church, which was a Protestant Church. He tried to force Irish Catholics to become Anglican. This policy was continued by his daughter Elizabeth I. The “Irish question” remained in the centre of British politics till 1921. After a long and bitter struggle the southern part of Ireland became a Free State, and the northern part of Ireland, where the Protestants were in majority, remained part of the UK. After all the years of confrontation the people of Northern Ireland understand that only through peace talks and respect for the rights of both Catholics and Protestants can peace be achieved.

Recently, there have been many waves of immigration into Britain. Now Britain is a multinational society, which benefits from the influence of different people and cultures.

Ex. 2. Study the vocabulary:

adoption	принятие
attack	нападать, атаковать
before Christ	до нашей эры
benefit	извлекать пользу
bitter struggle	жестокая борьба
Celt	кельт
conquer	завоевывать, покорять
contribute	способствовать
Dane	датчанин
declare	объявлять
defeat	наносить поражение
drive (drove, driven)	гнать, преследовать
entertaining	занимательный
force	заставлять, принуждать
Iberian peninsula	Иберийский полуостров (там, где находится Испания)
Ice Age	ледниковый период
impressive	впечатляющий
intermix	смешиваться (перемешиваться)
invade	вторгаться, захватывать, оккупировать
New Stone Age	новый каменный век

preserve	сохранять
quarrel	ссориться
ruler	правитель
search	поиск
separate	отделять, разделять
sign	подписывать
tribe	племя
tribute	дань
unification	объединение
untouched	нетронутый, незавоеванный
volume	том, книга

Ex. 3. Answer the questions:

1. What was Britain in prehistoric time?
2. When did the English Channel appear?
3. Who were the first inhabitants of the island?
4. Who left US Stonehenge and Avebury?
5. Where did the name "Britain" come from?
6. Where were the Celtic language, customs and traditions preserved?
7. Who made the Celts pay a regular tribute to Rome?
8. How long did the Romans stay in Britain?
9. Roman culture had a positive influence on the development of the country, didn't it?
10. Where did the name "England" come from?
11. Why was the northern part of Great Britain called Scotland?
12. What important event contributed to the unification of the country?
13. Who were the last of the invaders to come to England?
14. How long did the Norman invasion last?
15. What language was the official one during the rule of William the Conqueror?
16. What were the next steps of the unification of the country?
17. What is the "Irish question?"
18. What's the reason of the confrontation in Ireland?
19. Can peace be achieved?
20. Britain is a multinational society now, isn't it?

Ex. 4. Fill in the missing words:

1. The present English Channel which ... Britain from Europe ... at the end of the

2. They left us ... and ... as ... monuments of their time.
3. Their influence was great in Wales, Scotland, Ireland, as they were ... to these parts by the ... who followed them.
4. Roman ... was greatest in the south and south-east, while in the north and west the country remained
5. An important event which ... to the ... of the ... country was the ... of Christianity in England in 664.
6. The French ... became the official ... of the ... class for the next three centuries.
7. In the 16th century Henry VIII of England ... with Rome and ... himself head of the, which was a Protestant Church.
8. After all years of ... the people of Northern Ireland understand that only through... talks and ... for the right of both Catholics and Protestants can peace be

Ex. 5. Choose the correct ending to the sentences:

1. That's why we try to answer the questions, ...
 - a) why the British are so arrogant and who they are;
 - b) where the British come from and who they are;
 - c) where the British come from and why they leave for.
2. The Romans built many towns, connected them by roads. The largest of the towns was called ...
 - a) New Rome;
 - b) Scotland;
 - c) Londinium.
3. An important event which contributed to the unification of the country was ...
 - a) the formation of a single parliament in London;
 - b) the defeat of the English by William the Conqueror;
 - c) the adoption of Christianity in England in 664.
4. The union of England, Wales, Scotland became known as ...
 - a) Great Britain;
 - b) England;
 - c) the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Ex. 6 Give the English equivalents to the following sentences:

1. Чтобы рассказать полностью историю страны, не хватит и нескольких томов.
2. Первые жители острова пришли с Иберийского полуострова, где находится Испания, где-то после 3000 г. до н. э.
3. После 800 г. до н. э. кельты пришли из Центральной Европы и открыли новую страну в истории Британии.
4. Юлий Цезарь покинул страну с рабами и богатством и заставил кельтов регулярно платить дань Риму.
5. Римская культура и цивилизация оказали положительное влияние на развитие страны.
6. Люди стали называть новые земли англов и саксов Англией.
7. В 1066 г. герцог Вильгельм Нормандский разбил англичан в битве под Гастингсом и стал королем Англии, известным под именем Вильгельм Завоеватель.
8. Сейчас Британия – это многорасовое общество, которое выигрывает от влияния различных народов и культур друг друга.

Ex. 7. Read the text, divide it into the logical parts and name them.

Ex. 8. Put the following plan into logical order:

1. The last of the invaders.
2. Julius Caesar and Romans in the history of Great Britain.
3. The first inhabitants.
4. “Irish question.”
5. The Celts opened up a new important page in the British history.
6. Germanic tribes and the formation of the Scottish Kingdom.
7. England began to spread its power. The formation of Great Britain.
8. Britain is a country of great history.

Ex. 9. Discuss with your partner:

1. The first inhabitants of the British Isles and the Celtic tribes.
2. Roman influence on the development of Britain.
3. The formation of Great Britain.
4. The “Irish question.”

Text 3

Ex. 1. Read the text about the capital of the UK. Pay attention to the parts London consists of, the main buildings in those parts, the names of some famous British people whose life and work was connected with the capital. Be ready to speak about London.

LONDON

London is the capital of the UK, one of the largest and one of the world's most enjoyable cities. It offers the tourists an astonishing variety of scene. In this historic city the modern rubs shoulders with the old, the present is ever conscious of the past, the great and the small live side by side in mutual tolerance and respect.

London is more than 20 centuries old. Its buildings express all the different areas of its history, for London manages in a unique way to reflect its past and at the same time to fulfill the functions of a modern city.

The City, the oldest part of London, is the commercial and financial centre of the country. Westminster is the political heart of London. The West End is the richest and the most beautiful part of London, the symbol of wealth and luxury, where the most expensive hotels, restaurants, shops and clubs are situated. The East End is the industrial part. There are many factories, workshops and shipyards there.

London offers the visitors a great variety of places of interest. It's a city of dream to everybody interested in the English history and culture.

World famous places are the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Trafalgar Square, the Tower of London and so forth.

The Houses of Parliament, a symbol of London, spread magnificently on the north bank of the Thames. This structure is a remarkable example of Gothic architecture. The Clock Tower called "Big Ben" is known the world over. Its hour bell is named after Sir Benjamin Hall, the first Commissioner of Works. The Houses of Parliament, called officially the Palace of Westminster, were formally a palace for kings and queens. Until the 16th century it was used both as a royal residence and as a parliament house. After the royal family moved to Whitehall Palace, the Westminster Palace was occupied by the Parliament and became its permanent home.

Opposite the House of Parliament, Westminster Abbey is situated. It's a national shrine where the kings and queens are crowned and famous people are buried. It was founded by Edward the Confessor in 1050. The construction lasted 300 years. One of the greatest treasures of the Abbey is the oaken Coro-

nation Chair made in 1300. Near the West Door of the Abbey the unknown warrior lies in a simple grave commemorating the men who died in the First World War. The memorials to G. G. Byron, R. Burns, W. Shakespeare, W. M. Thackeray, W. Scott attract tourists to the Poets' Corner.

Londoners have a particular affection for St. Paul's Cathedral, the largest Protestant Church in England. It is an architectural masterpiece of the eminent architect Sir Christopher Wren. It stands on the site of the former Saxon and Norman Churches destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1656. The building was completed in 1710. Wren is buried under the roof of his own great work. "If you want to see his monument, look around," is written on his tomb.

Trafalgar Square is a place of pilgrimage for visitors. It's the natural centre of London. It is usually full of visitors feeding the pigeons and looking at the statues and fountains. In the middle of the square we can see Nelson's Column with the statue of Nelson at the top. This monument was erected to commemorate Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 where he defeated the French and Spanish fleets. The pedestal of the Column is decorated with bas-reliefs representing Nelson's most famous victories. Here in Trafalgar Square the National Gallery is situated. It contains an outstanding collection of paintings from British, Italian, Spanish, French, Dutch and other famous schools.

The tower of London is also a real attraction for tourists. It is one of the first and most impressive castles built after the Norman invasion of England in 1066.

William the Conqueror built it to protect the City of London. The Tower has been used as a royal palace, an observatory, an arsenal, a state prison where one can see the Crown Jewels, the finest precious stones of the nation and a fine collection of armour, exhibited in the Keep. The security of the Tower is ensured by "Beefeaters" or the Yeoman Warders who still wear the picturesque Tudor uniform. A lot of ancient traditions and customs are carefully kept in the Tower.

And it is true to the whole city. In every part of London you can find a very genuine affection for national traditions.

Ex. 2. Study the vocabulary:

affection	привязанность, любовь
ancient	древний, старинный
architecture	архитектура, зодчество
armour	вооружение, доспехи

attract	привлекать, притягивать
bank	берег
bas-relief	барельеф
bury	хорошить
capital	столица
carefully	бережно, внимательно, заботливо
castle	замок
commemorate	устраивать в память, в честь, ознаменовывать
complete	заканчивать
construction	строительство
contain	содержать в себе
Crown Jewels	драгоценности королевской казны
crown	короновать
defeat	побеждать, разбивать
destroy	разрушать, уничтожать
eminent	выдающийся, знаменитый
ensure	обеспечивать, гарантировать
erect	воздвигать, сооружать
execute	казнить
exhibit	выставлять, экспонировать (-ся) на выставке
feed (fed, fed)	кормить
fleet	эскадра
former	прежний, бывший
formerly	прежде
fountain	фонтан
genuine	подлинный
grave	могила
impressive	впечатляющий, выразительный
invasion	вторжение, интервенция
Keep	главная башня, сокровищница
last	продолжать
magnificently	великолепно, пышно
masterpiece	истинный шедевр
move	переезжать
oaken	дубовый
outstanding	выдающийся
painting	картина
parliament	парламент
particular	особенный, особый
pedestal	подножие, пьедестал

permanent	постоянный
picturesque	живописный, колоритный
pigeon	голубь
pilgrimage	паломничество
precious stone	драгоценный камень
prison	тюрьма
protect	охранять, защищать
reflect	отражать
remarkable	замечательный
royal residence	королевская резиденция
security	охрана, защита
shrine	святыня, место поклонения
site	участок (для строительства)
statue	статуя
structure	здание, сооружение
tomb	могила, надгробный памятник
top	вершина
treasure	сокровище
unknown warrior	неизвестный солдат

Ex. 3. Fill in the missing words:

1. In this historic city the modern ... with the old, the present is ever ... of the past, the great and the small live side by side in ... tolerance and

2. Its buildings ... all the different areas of its history, for London ... in a unique way to ... its past and at the same time to ... the functions of a modern city.

3. This ... (the Houses of Parliament) is a ... example of Gothic

4. One of the greatest ... of Westminster Abbey is the ... Coronation Chair made in 13,000.

5. St. Paul's Cathedral is an architectural ... of the architect Sir Christopher Wren.

6. Trafalgar Square is usually full of visitors ... the pigeons and looking at the ... and ...

7. The Tower of London is now a museum where one can see the, the finest ... stones of the nation and a fine collection of ... exhibited in the

Ex. 4. Choose the correct ending to the sentences:

1. The City, the oldest part of London, is ...
 - a) political heart of London;
 - b) the symbol of wealth and luxury;
 - c) the commercial and financial centre of the country.
2. The House of Parliament, called officially the Palace of Westminster, were formerly ...
 - a) a royal prison;
 - b) a palace for kings and queens;
 - c) a national shrine where kings and queens were crowned.

Ex. 5. Give the English equivalents to the following sentences:

1. Лондон – столица Объединенного Королевства Великобритании и Северной Ирландии, один из крупнейших портов и самый притягательный город в мире.
2. Лондон предлагает своим гостям огромное разнообразие достопримечательностей; это город мечты для каждого, кто интересуется историей и культурой Англии.
3. Здания Парламента – символ Лондона – величественно расположены на северном берегу Темзы.
4. Вестминстерское аббатство является национальной святыней, где короновались короли и королевы и похоронены знаменитые люди.
5. Собор святого Павла стоит на месте, где находились саксонская и нормандская церкви, разрушенные во время Великого пожара в Лондоне в 1666 г.
6. Посреди Трафальгарской площади мы видим колонну со статуей адмирала Нельсона на вершине.
7. Охрана Тауэра осуществляется «бифитерами» или иоменами (стражами Тауэра), которые носят отличительно яркую форму тюдоровских времен.

Text 4

Ex. 1. Read the text. You will get to know what kind of people the British are, customs and traditions they have. Get ready to speak about the characteristic features of the British people.

SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BRITISH

Britain is known as the land of law and order. So the best reason for the British to do something in a certain way is that it has always been done in that way. For example, their theatres are closed on Sundays. This was decided by the law in the days of Shakespeare and since that time the law has been in force.

As for the cinemas, they are not closed on Sundays. Because when the law was made there were no cinemas in Britain.

The British are known to have a cult of privacy. They protect their privacy and wish equally for other people to protect theirs. They are a nation of stays-at-home. "There is no place like home," they say. The Englishman spends most of his spare time at home in the company of his wife and children. "The Englishman's home is his castle," is a saying known all over the world.

Most British like gardening that is a very popular hobby and a favorite pastime. This is one of the main reasons why so many people in Britain prefer to live in houses more than in flats. They like to have a fireplace in their house or flat and in long winter evenings they like to sit round the fireplace and watch the dancing flames of the fire.

The best-known quality of the English is reserve. A reserved person does not talk very much to strangers and does not show much emotion.

The British are said to be very conservative, they love familiar things. Queuing is a national habit. At bus stops and cinemas, in shops, banks

There are three stages in the state educational system in England and Wales: primary education, secondary education and further education. University-level education stands apart being almost independent of state control.

Children legally have to start school at the age of five. The first two years are the years of infant school or classes. At seven children go to the junior school where they study up to the age of eleven. Then pupils move to the secondary school where they usually study up to 16 years of age. All children between the age of 5 and 16 must, by law, receive full time education. This education is compulsory.

Some children may continue their studies at the 6th form college or class up to the age of 18, the age of entry to University, Polytechnics or Colleges of further education.

According to the National Curriculum, introduced in 1988, children at the age of 7, 11, 14 and 16 are tested.

Until the year of testing schools are allowed to choose the subjects to teach pupils and the ways of teaching those subjects. Besides school chil-

dren are given the opportunity to choose the subjects to learn. The English school syllabus is divided into Art (or Humanities) and Sciences. Science pupils study Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics (Maths), Economics, Technical Drawing, Biology, Geography, post offices, and in lots of other places one will have to join the queue and wait for his (her) turn. People expect you to be polite in the way that is normal to them.

Everybody knows that traffic in London and other large cities in Britain keeps to the left but not to the right. English people say, "If you go left, you'll go right. If you go right, you'll go wrong." They say that once upon a time people kept to any side of the road they liked. But then they decided to make it a rule to keep to the left. As Napoleon hated the British, he decided to make French people keep to a different side. And later on in all the countries which he conquered he made the traffic keep to the right.

The British are the world's greatest tea drinkers. They may drink many times a day. They drink a quarter of all the grown in the world each year.

The British are known to be very polite. Such polite words and phrases as "Please," "Thank you," "Excuse me" are used very often.

British people are also known to have sense of humour. They often laugh at themselves. "He is a man of humour" or "He has no sense of humour" is often heard in Britain where humour is so highly prized.

Ex. 2. Study the vocabulary:

once upon a time	давным-давно
reserve	сдержанность, замкнутость
to make it a rule	сделать так, чтобы это стало правилом

SPEECH ACTIVITIES

Ex. 1. Respond to the statements below using polite exclamations of surprise:

– Oh, really? Is it really so? How strange! Oh, did (does) she (he)?
(work in pairs).

E. g. Britain is the land of law and order.

– Oh, really? I didn't know it before.

– Is it really so? How strange!

1. Their theatres are closed on Sundays.

2. The British protect their privacy.

3. Most British like gardening.
4. The English are known to be reserved.
5. Foreigners have to join the queue as the British do.
6. They drink tea many times a day.
7. The British often laugh at themselves.

Ex. 2. Using the above statements as a plan, speak about the British people as much as you can. Use extra information.

Ex. 3. Say what characteristic features of the British people you like most of all. Explain why?

Ex. 4. Say what characteristics given to the British people can be used when speaking about the Belarusians. What are they? Support your idea.

Ex. 5. A 20th century Hungarian journalist who immigrated to Great Britain and wrote in English, George Mikes by name wrote, "An Englishman, even if he is alone, forms an orderly queue of one." Comment on this statement.

Ex. 6. The American poet H. W. Longfellow said, "Stay, stay at home, my heart, and rest. Home-keeping hearts are happiest." Did he think that those who stay at home may be regarded as the happiest people? Together with your partners comment on this statement.

Support your idea.

TOPIC 4. NATURE PROTECTION

Text 1

Ex. 1. Read the text about the problem of nature protection. Be ready to speak on this problem.

NATURE PROTECTION

Computers project that between now and the year of 2030 we are going to have an increase of the average temperature between 1.5–4.5 degrees C. Sea levels would rise by several metres, flooding coastal areas and ruin-

ing vast tracts of farmland. Huge areas would be infertile and become uninhabitable. Water contamination could lead to shortages of safe drinking water. It looks like the end of civilization on the Earth.

For hundreds of thousands of years the human race has thriven in Earth's environment. But now, at the end of the 20th century, we are a crucial turning point. We have upset nature's sensitive equilibrium releasing harmful substances into the air, polluting rivers and oceans with industrial waste and tearing up the countryside to accommodate our rubbish. These are the consequences of the development of civilization. We are to stop it by joint efforts of all the people of the world.

The range of environmental problems is wide. But the matters of people's great concern nowadays are atmosphere and climate changes, depletion of the ozone layer, freshwater resources, oceans and coastal areas, deforestation and desertification, biological diversity, biotechnology, health and chemical safety. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) concentrates its activities on these issues.

ACID RAINS

One of the most alarming forms of air pollution is acid rain. It results from the release into the atmosphere of sulphur and nitrogen oxides that react with water droplets and return to earth in the form of acid rain, mist or snow. Acid rain is killing forests in Canada, the USA, and central and northern Europe (nearly every species of tree is affected). It has acidified lakes and streams and they can't support fish, wildlife, plants or insects (in the USA each 5th lake suffer from this type of pollution).

DEPLETION OF THE OZONE LAYER

The protective layer of the Earth, the ozone layer, which protects the Earth from the sun's destructive ultra-violet (UV) rays, is being damaged by CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons). They are released by the daily use of industrial and household products: refrigerators, air conditioners, foam insulation, cleaning chemicals, food packaging. In the ozone layer they attack the ozone molecules making a "hole." This "hole" allows more UV rays to penetrate to the Earth. It increases the risk of skin cancer, weakens the immune system of people. Besides, UV rays influence the oceans, the growth of plankton, an essential part of the marine-life food chain in the negative way; reduce economically important crops (rice, cotton, soy beans). The life cycle is going to be undermined by the ozone.

DESTRUCTION OF THE TROPICAL FOREST

It's generally agreed that the destruction of the tropical forest has a major impact on the world climate. The tropical rain forest is a natural recycler, provider and protector for our planet. It recycles carbon, nitrogen and oxygen, helps determine temperature, rainfall and other climatic conditions and supports the most diverse ecosystem in the world. Deforestation could cause one forth of all species on earth to vanish in the next 25 years. These forests in Amazonia, South-East Asia and West and Central Africa are being destroyed at an alarming rate of 42 million acres per year.

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN

We have only a few years to attempt to turn things around. We must review our wasteful, careless ways, we must consume less, recycle more, conserve wildlife and nature, act according to the dictum "think locally, think globally, act locally." To my mind, we are obliged to remove factories and plants from cities, use modern technologies, redesign and modify purifying systems for cleaning and trapping harmful substances, protect and increase the greenery and broaden ecological education. These are the main practical measures, which must be taken in order to improve the ecological situation.

Some progress has been already made in this direction: 159 countries-members of the UNO have set up environmental protection agencies. They hold conferences discussing ecological problems, set up environmental research centres and take practical urgent measures to avoid ecological catastrophe. There are numerous public organizations such as Greenpeace that are doing much to preserve environment. The 5th of June is proclaimed the World Environmental Day by the UNO and is celebrated every year.

Ex. 2. Study the vocabulary:

acid	кислота
acre	акр (0,405 га)
alarming	тревожный, пугающий
average	средний
chlorofluorocarbons	хлорфторуглероды
conséquences	последствия
contamination	загрязнение, заражение
crucial	критический, решающий

crucial turning point	переломный момент, критическое положение
depletion	истощение
diversity	разнообразие
flood	затоплять
foam insulation	пенная изоляция
impact	влияние, воздействие
mist	изморось, туман
molecule	молекула
nitrogen	азот
ozone layer	озоновый слой
plankton	планктон
pollute	загрязнять
react	вступать в реакцию
recycle	перерабатывать
release	выбрасывать, освобождать
sensitive equilibrium	хрупкое равновесие
species	вид (виды)
substance	вещество
sulphur oxide	окись серы
thrive (throve, thriven)	процветать
tract	участок, пространство (земли)
ultra-violet rays	ультрафиолетовые лучи
undermine	подрывать
vanish	исчезать

Ex. 3. Answer the questions:

1. What are the matters of people's great concern nowadays?
2. What damage do acid rains bring?
3. Why are the ozone "holes" dangerous for the life on the Earth?
4. Why is tropical rain forest a natural recycler, provider and protector for our planet?
5. What could lead to shortages of safe drinking water?
6. What are the main practical measures which must be taken in order to improve the ecological situation?

Ex. 4. Fill in the missing words:

1. But now in the last decade of the 20th century we are at a

2. It results from the release into the atmosphere of ... and that... with water droplets and return to earth in the form of acid rain, ... or snow.
3. The life cycle is going to be ... by the ozone.
4. The tropical rain forest is a natural ..., ... and ... for our planet.
5. Sea levels would rise by several meters, ... coastal areas and ruining vast ... of farmland.
6. We must review our ..., ... ways, we must consume less, recycle more, ... wildlife and nature, act according to the ... “think locally, think globally, act locally.”

Ex. 5. Choose the correct ending to the sentences:

1. Environmental changes are the consequences of the ...
 - a) development of sport;
 - b) development of civilization;
 - c) protection of the environment.
2. Acid rains are killing ...
 - a) forests in Canada, the USA, central and northern Europe;
 - b) towns in Africa;
 - c) animals all over the world.
3. In the ozone layer CFCs attack ...
 - a) spaceships and satellites, making “holes”;
 - b) birds, killing them;
 - c) the ozone molecules, making a “hole.”
4. Tropical rain forests recycle carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and help determine ...
 - a) temperature, rainfall and other climatic conditions;
 - b) level of the world ocean;
 - c) the development of science.
5. Huge areas would be ...
 - a) conserved and recycled;
 - b) infertile and become uninhabitable;
 - c) destroyed by UV rays.
6. Practical measures must be taken to ...
 - a) flood coastal areas and vast tracts of farmland;

- b) improve the ecological situation;
- c) protect animals.

Ex. 6. Translate from Russian into English:

1. Сотни тысяч лет человечество процветало в окружающей его среде.
2. Одна из самых тревожных форм загрязнения воздуха – это кислотные дожди.
3. Защитный слой Земли, озоновый, защищающий Землю от разрушительных ультрафиолетовых лучей, разрушается хлорфторуглеродами.

Ex. 7. Read the text, divide it into the logical parts and name them.

Ex 8. Put the following plan into logical order:

1. Acid rains.
2. The ozone “hole.”
3. People upset nature’s equilibrium.
4. The increase of the average temperature.
5. The main practical measures to improve the ecological situation.
6. The tropical forest.

Ex. 9. Speak about:

1. How the human race has upset the nature’s equilibrium.
2. The impact of acid rains and ozone “holes” on the life on the Earth.
3. What we can do to improve the ecological situation.

Text 2

Ex. 1. Read the text about modern progress in science. Be ready to speak on this topic.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS

It’s difficult to overestimate the role of science and technology in our life. They accelerate the development of civilization and help us in our co-operation with nature. Scientists investigate the laws of the universe, dis-

cover the secrets of nature, and apply their knowledge in practice improving the life of people.

Let's compare our life nowadays with the life of people at the beginning of the 20th century. It has changed beyond recognition. Our ancestors hadn't the slightest idea of the trivial things created by the scientific progress that we use in our every day life. I mean refrigerators, TV-sets, computers, microwave ovens, radio telephones, what not. They would seem miracle to them that made our life easy, comfortable and pleasant. On the other hand, the great inventions of the beginning of the 20th century, I mean radio, airplanes, combustion and jet engines have become usual things and we can't imagine our life without them.

A century is a long period for scientific and technological progress, as it's rather rapid. Millions of investigations, the endless number of outstanding discoveries have been made. Our century has had several names that were connected with a certain era in science and technology. At first it was called the atomic age due to the discovery of the splitting of the atom. Then it became the age of the conquest of space when for the first time in the history of mankind a man overcame the gravity and entered the Universe. And now we live in the information era when the computer network embraces the globe and connects not only the countries and space stations but a lot of people all over the world. All these things prove the power and the greatest progressive role of science in our life.

But every medal has its reverse. And the rapid scientific progress has aroused a number of problems that are a matter of our great concern. These are ecological problems, the safety of nuclear power stations, the nuclear war threat and the responsibility of a scientist.

But still we are grateful to the outstanding men of the past and the present who have courage and patience to disclose the secrets of the Universe.

Ex. 2. Study the vocabulary:

a matter of great concern	вопрос, вызывающий озабоченность
accelerate	ускорять
apply	применять, употреблять
arouse	вызывать
beyond recognition	до неузнаваемости
combustion engine	двигатель внутреннего сгорания
conquest	покорение
courage	смелость
disclose	обнаруживать, раскрывать

embrace	охватывать
endless	бесконечный
gravity	сила тяжести, притяжение, гравитация
investigate	исследовать
jet engine	реактивный двигатель
miracle	чудо
our ancestors hadn't the slightest idea of...	у наших предков не было ни малейшего представления о...
overestimate	переоценивать
patience	терпение
rapid	быстрый, скорый
responsibility	ответственность
reverse	оборотная сторона
splitting	расщепление
threat	угроза
trivial	обыденный
universe	вселенная, мир

Ex. 3. Answer the questions:

1. What is the role of science and technology in our life?
2. What things, which we use in our daily life, would seem miracles to our ancestors?
3. How have great inventions changed our life?
4. What is our century called? Explain why?
5. Why was the century called the atomic age?
6. What problems has the rapid scientific progress aroused?
7. We are grateful to the great scientists and inventors, aren't we?

Ex. 4. Fill in the missing words:

1. Science and technology ... the development of civilization and help us in our ... with nature.
2. Trivial things created by the scientific progress would seem ... to our ancestors.
3. The great inventions made our life easy, ... and
4. A century is a long period for ... and ... progress, as it's rather... .
5. Now we live in the when the computer network ... the globe and ... not only the countries and space stations, but a lot of ... all over the world.

6. Rapid scientific progress has ... a number of problems that are a matter of our great

Ex. 5. Choose the correct ending to the sentences:

1. Scientists investigate the laws of the Universe, discover the secrets of nature and then ...

- a) write thick books improving the life of people;
- b) invent different machines improving the life of people;
- c) apply their knowledge in practice improving the life of people.

2. Our life nowadays, as compared with the life of people at the beginning of the 20th century ...

- a) has not changed at all;
- b) has changed beyond recognition;
- c) has become more pleasant and comfortable.

3. Our century has had several names that were connected with ...

- a) a certain era in science and technology;
- b) a certain era in art and music;
- c) the development of the society.

Ex. 6. Translate from Russian into English:

1. Трудно переоценить роль науки и техники в нашей жизни.

2. Наши предки не имели ни малейшего представления об обыденных вещах, созданных прогрессом науки, которыми мы пользуемся каждый день.

3. Были проведены миллионы исследований и сделано бесконечное число выдающихся открытий.

4. Но у любой медали есть обратная сторона.

5. И все же мы благодарны великим ученым прошлого и настоящего, у которых есть мужество и терпение раскрывать секреты Вселенной.

Ex. 7. Read the text, divide it into the logical parts and name them.

Ex 8. Put the following plan into logical order:

1. Things that make our life easy, comfortable and pleasant.

2. Every medal has its reverse.
3. The role of science and technology in our life.
4. The reason why the 20th century has had several different names.

Ex. 9. Speak about:

1. Trivial things that make our life comfortable, but would seem miracles to our ancestors.
2. Why the 20th century was called the atomic age, the age of the conquest of space and the information era.
3. The problems caused by the rapid scientific progress.

Text 3

Ex. 1. Read the text about Chernobyl catastrophe. Be ready to speak on this problem.

CHERNOBYL CATASTROPHE

On the 26th of April 1986 a catastrophe broke out 12 km off the Belarusian border. It was the major break-down of the power unit at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. It is the most severe catastrophe throughout the entire world history of the atomic energy use by its scale, complexity and long-term consequences.

As the result of the explosion of the failed reactor a huge amount of radioactive substances was released into the atmosphere. Later on they left the large fall-out “spots” on the ground surface. About 23% of the territory of Belarus, 4.8% of the territory of the Ukraine and 0.5% of the territory of Russia were contaminated.

The radiation situation was determined by radionuclides with the period of half-decay from 8 days till 24,390 years.

After the Chernobyl accident Belarus has become the zone of the ecological disaster. The situation got worse because radioactive contamination coincided with the formerly existing zones of high chemical pollution. About 260,000 hectares of agricultural lands are forbidden to use for farming purposes. Thousands of hectares of forests are contaminated with radioactive elements. The Chernobyl catastrophe has affected the destinies of millions of people. The radioactive contamination of the ecosystems has created the conditions for making it impossible to conduct the agricultural production and manage forestry in the normal way for many decades.

In order to decrease the influence of radiation on the people considerable work was done during the post-accident period. Measures were taken to evacuate the people from the most dangerous districts, to provide for their medical check-up and treatment. Various measures were almost carried out – radioactive decontamination, agricultural treatment of soil, provision of clean food. However, these measures are not enough yet. And international co-operation in this field serves the interests of the entire mankind.

Ex. 2. Study the vocabulary:

break-down	Авария
coincide	Совпадать
complexity	Сложность
conduct	Вести
considerable	Значительный
contaminate	Заражать, загрязнять
destiny	Судьба
determine	Определять, обуславливать
disaster	Бедствие
entire	Целый
exist	Существовать
existing	Существующий
explosion	Взрыв
failed reactor	Аварийный реактор
fall-out	Неисправный
forestry	Радиоактивные осадки
formerly	Лесоводство
half-decay	Полураспад
long-term	Долговременный
manage	Управлять
power unit	Энергоблок
provide	Обеспечивать
provision	Обеспечение
scale	Тяжелый
severe	Жестокий
treatment	Лечение

Ex. 3. Answer the questions:

1. When and where did the Chernobyl catastrophe break out?

2. Why is it considered to be the most severe catastrophe?
3. What are the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe in Belarus?
4. What was done in Belarus during the post-accident period to decrease the influence of radiation?
4. Are the measures taken quite enough?

Ex. 4. Fill in the missing words:

1. It was the major ... of the at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.
2. Later on radioactive substances left the large ... “spots” on the ground surface.
3. The situation got worse because coincided with the ... existing zones of high
4. The Chernobyl ... has affected the ... of millions of Belarusian people.
5. Measures were taken to ... the people from the most ... districts, to ... for their medical ... and

Ex. 5. Choose the correct ending to the sentences:

1. It is the most severe catastrophe throughout ...
 - a) the history of Belarus;
 - b) the entire world history of atomic energy use;
 - c) the entire world history of industrial development.
2. About 260,000 hectares of agricultural lands ...
 - a) are forbidden to use for farming purposes;
 - b) are forbidden to use for hunting;
 - c) can be used for farming purposes.
3. The measures taken are ...
 - a) quite enough;
 - b) not enough yet;
 - c) unsuccessful.

Ex. 6. Translate from Russian into English:

1. В 12 км от белорусской границы 26 апреля 1986 г. на Украине произошла катастрофа.
2. В результате взрыва аварийного реактора в атмосферу было выброшено огромное количество радиоактивных веществ.

3. После чернобыльской аварии Беларусь стала зоной экологического бедствия.

5. Для того чтобы уменьшить влияние радиации на людей после аварии, в республике была проведена значительная работа.

6. Международное сотрудничество в этой области служит интересам всего человечества.

Ex. 7. Read the text, divide it into the logical parts and name them.

Ex. 8. Put the following plan into logical order:

1. Measures were taken to decrease the influence of radiation.
2. The catastrophe and its consequences.
3. Belarus is the zone of ecological disaster.

Ex. 9. Speak about:

1. Long-term consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe.
2. The ecological situation in Belarus during the post-accident period.
3. The measures which were taken to decrease the influence of radiation.

СПИСОК РЕКОМЕНДУЕМОЙ ЛИТЕРАТУРЫ

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“Великобритания”, “Защита окружающей среды”
для студентов 1 курса дневной формы обучения
экономических специальностей**

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